

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This is a supplemental response to the Official Action of September 26, 2008, relating to the above-identified application.

The claims in the case are claims 1 to 12.

Filed herewith is a copy of Fig. 1 of the *Kanehara* document, JP9-132207, in enlarged form. Also filed is another enlarged copy of the *Kanehara* drawing marked "Fig. 2". These two figures are presented to assist the Examiner in understanding the difference between the *Kanehara* reference and the present invention. Fig. 2 attached hereto shows certain elements in broken line as will be discussed below.

In the response of January 12, 2009, the claims were amended to more precisely point out that the apparatus of the present invention comprises a first double-acting unit (21) having a driving direction along a straight path and being fluid-operated for driving a tape feeding out unit (B), and a second double-acting unit (22) having a driving direction along a straight path and also being fluid-operated for driving the tape taking-up unit (F). More precisely, each of the driving units of the apparatus of the invention for the tape feeding-out unit (B) and the driving unit for tape taking-up unit (F) comprises a double-acting driving unit having a driving direction along a straight path and being fluid-operated.

In contrast *Kanehara* (JP 9-132207A) shows a take-up reel (3B) which corresponds to the tape taking-up unit (F) of the present invention, but (3B) is not adapted to be driven by the double-acting driving unit having a driving direction along a straight path and being fluid-operated. More particularly, the take-up reel (3B) of *Kanehara* is rotated by the drive shaft (4i),

not driven by a double-acting driving unit having a driving direction along a straight path and being fluid-operated as in the present invention.

The device of *Kanehara* does not include an element corresponding to the first double-acting unit (element 21 added to Fig. 2 by showing in broken lines). More particularly, in the device of *Kanehara*, the movable carriage 5b is slidably moved relative to the holding stand 5a. *Kanehara* only discloses that the driving unit may be used as the holding stand 5a, and fails to disclose that the fluid-operated double-acting units may be used (see para. [0033] of the English translation of the *Kanehara* document attached hereto).

Further, *Kanehara* does not include elements corresponding to the second double-acting unit (elements 22 and 9c added to Fig. 2 in broken lines). To be more specific, *Kanehara* only discloses that the driving shaft 41 is provided, and fails to disclose a driving source for the take up reel 3B (see para. [0028] of the English translation of the *Kanehara* document attached hereto).

The Official Action on page 4, beginning at line 11, alleges that the *Kanehara* Japanese document shows a third guidance roll (4f), a second tension grant roll (4g), a fourth guidance roll (4h) and a take-up reel (3B) with a driving shaft (4i) and are considered as a tape taking-up unit corresponding to the taking-up unit (F) of the present invention.

However, applicants respectfully submit that the take-up reel (3B) of *Kanehara* corresponds to tape taking-up unit (F) of the present invention. The third guidance role (4f) and the fourth guidance roll (4h) of *Kanehara* are not adapted to take-up the tape, but instead function to guide the tape to the take-up reel (3B).

In the present invention, element 22 and element 9c cooperatively act as the second double-acting unit. *Kanehara* fails to disclose a driving mechanism for the take-up reel 3B.

According, applicants respectfully submit that the *Kanehara* Japanese document does not anticipate Claims 1, 2, 5, 6 and 7.

The rejection of Claim 3 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over *Kanehara* in view of *Larsen, et al.*, U.S. 5,389,190, is traversed and reconsideration is respectfully requested for the reasons expressed in applicants' previous response and for the reasons set forth above.

Even if the carrier tape forming apparatus shown in *Kanehara* were to be modified by providing a dancer roller and a brake belt in accordance with the teachings of *Larsen*, the combination would still not arrive at applicants' invention. There is no teaching or suggestion in *Larsen* whereby a person skilled in the art would be led to reconstruct the *Kanehara* apparatus to include the missing features mentioned above.

Accordingly, applicants respectfully submit that the rejection is not well founded and should be withdrawn.

The rejection of claim 4 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over *Kanehara* taken with *Teed*, U.S. 3,984,272, is traversed and reconsideration is respectfully requested for reasons set forth above. The deficiencies of *Kanehara* are discussed above and the *Teed* apparatus for successively forming disposable diapers where the apparatus includes cutting means and rollers for slitting or cutting off a width off of a width-wise end of the continuous fibers would not provide the missing elements of *Kanehara*.

Accordingly, applicants respectfully submit that the combination of references does not establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness for the subject matter of Claim 4.

Favorable action at the Examiner's earliest convenience is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

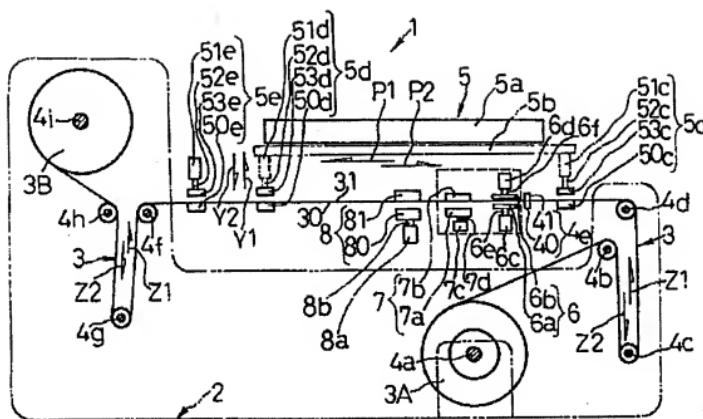
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【図1】



[図1]

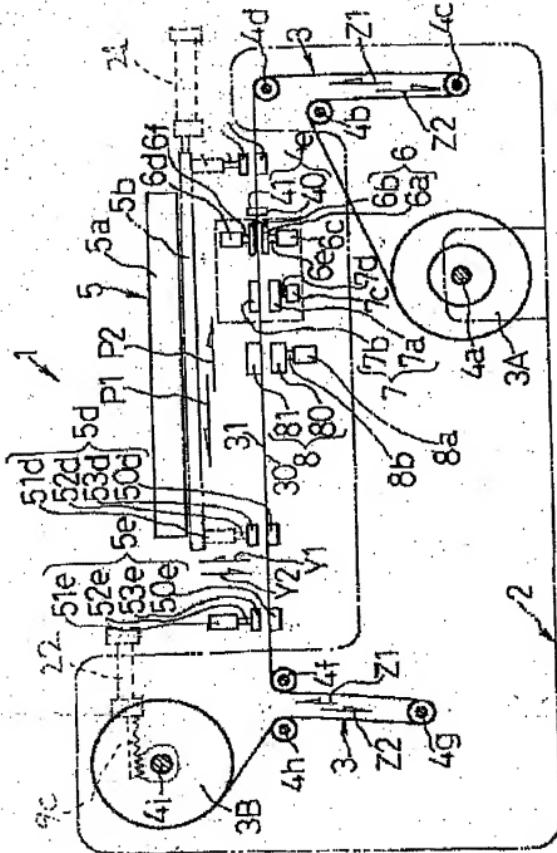


Fig. 2